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SERIAL NO.: 10/509,405
FILED: September 24, 2004
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5, to read as follows:

Exposure of PC-12 cells to 0.5 mM KCN induced massive necrotic cell death compared to the control. Addition of elastase inhibitor III which ~~in the absence of KCN had no effect on cell viability,~~ **was inactive by itself** significantly inhibited necrosis induced by KCN (Fig. 5, B). The protective effect of elastase inhibitor III is also seen when cell survival was determined under the same conditions by trypan blue exclusion (Fig. 5, A).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 14, to read as follows:

Exposure of PC-12 cells to 1.25 μ M STS induced massive apoptotic cell death as compared to the control. Addition of 200 μ M elastase inhibitor (Cortech, Inc.) which ~~in the absence of KCN had no effect on cell viability,~~ **was inactive by itself** significantly inhibited apoptosis induced by STS (Fig. 9).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 21, to read as follows:

As seen in Fig. 10A, 1.25 μ M STS with 1 μ M oligomycin induced about 70% necrosis. 200 μ M elastase inhibitor ~~had no effect on cell viability in the absence of KCN,~~ **was inactive by itself**, but completely abrogated necrosis-induced by STS. Under the same conditions 100 μ M elastase inhibitor markedly reduced necrotic cell death to 9%, and shifted 39% of the necrotic cell death to apoptotic cell death (Fig. 10B).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 3, to read as follows:

Exposure of PC-12 cells to 0.5 mM KCN induced massive necrotic cell death as compared to the control. Addition of 200 μ M elastase inhibitor ~~which in the absence of KCN had no effect on cell viability,~~ **was inactive by itself** significantly inhibited necrosis induced by KCN (Fig. 11).